

Eddie Sleeper

From: Bill Houghton <bhoughton01@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 2:28 PM
To: bhoughton01@icloud.com; Eddie Sleeper
Subject: Vote No HB 5870

Dear Representatives on the Tax Policy Committee:

Before you vote to destroy the RTA read this article about transit riders in metro Detroit— <http://www.secondwavemedia.com/metromode/features/profiles%20in%20transit-050918.aspx>

The RTA is not the only regional taxing authority we have in Southeast Michigan without opt outs.

Other examples include the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Zoo, the Cobo Authority, and the Great Lakes Water Authority. These regional efforts work because the entire region participates. We also need to pay for things that society relies on such as education, senior services and infrastructure. Transit is no different.

An effective and efficient transit system that brings value to all, including those who benefit indirectly, cannot work when based upon a Swiss cheese map.

Just imagine I-75 or 94 with opt outs — it would add very little value to the region.

So instead of working to destroy the RTA by allowing opt outs, I ask that you vote no on HB 5870 and work with the RTA to address the areas you feel need to be improved or introduce legislation that allows the RTA to fund the plan with alternative taxing methods, which are not solely dependent upon property taxes, such as a gas tax, a hotel tax, utility tax or sin taxes.

And don't forget, the plan already includes \$30 million per year for cities and townships in North Macomb County and North Oakland County that can be used to for ride sharing services and other transit solutions.

Please read the plan:
<http://www.connectsoutheastmichigan.org/proposed-plan/>

Regards,
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Sent from my iPhone